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IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 56 - 91 have been cancelled, without prejudice.

1. (original) An attachment for a wireless communication device, said wireless communication device having an antenna, and outer casing, a communication port and a device processor, said attachment comprising:

an outer casing adapted to couple to said outer casing of said wireless communication device;

an attachment processor;

a first input device; and

a connector adapted to mate with said communication port of said wireless communication device, such that electrical signals may be communicated between said antenna and said attachment processor without said signals being received by said device processor when said connector and said communication port are mated together.

2. (original) The attachment according to claim 1, wherein said wireless communication device is one of a wireless telephone, a personal digital assistant, and a computer.

3. (original) The attachment according to claim 1, wherein said first input device is one of a magnetic strip reader, a smartcard reader, an optical scanner, a fingerprint scanner, a signature pad, or a proximity detector.

4. (original) The attachment according to claim 3, wherein said first input device is a magnetic stripe reader, said magnetic stripe reader having a slot and a reader head, said slot extending from a first opening in said outer casing of said attachment to

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a second opening in said outer casing of said attachment, and wherein said reader head forms a portion of a side wall of said slot.

5. (original) The attachment according to claim 4, wherein said slot is substantially parallel to a bottom surface of said outer casing of said wireless communication device.

6. (original) The attachment according to claim 4, wherein said slot is substantially parallel to a side surface of said outer casing of said wireless communication device.

7. (original) The attachment according to claim 1, said attachment processor adapted to process input information received from said input device to generate attachment-processed data to send to said antenna for transmission to a remote computer.

8. (original) The attachment according to claim 7, wherein said attachment-processed data is generated by at least one of encrypting said input information, dividing said input information into data packets, and creating header information to append to said input information.

9. (original) The attachment according to claim 1, wherein said device processor, said antenna, and at least one of said communication port and said attachment processor are connected by an logical bus.

10. (original) The attachment according to claim 9, wherein said device processor and at least one of said communication port and said attachment processor have unique bus addresses, and a message received by said antenna includes information identifying the bus address of the intended recipient of said message.

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11. (original) The attachment according to claim 1, wherein said connector is an RS-232 connector.

12. (original) The attachment according to claim 1, further including a selectively engageable latching mechanism and a release mechanism that may be activated to detach said attachment from said wireless communication device.

13. (original) The attachment according to claim 12, wherein said release mechanism is a release button that may be pressed to disengage said latching mechanism.

14. (original) The attachment according to claim 1, further including a second input device.

15. (original) The attachment according to claim 14, wherein said second input device is one of a magnetic stripe reader, a smartcard reader, an optical scanner, a fingerprint scanner, a signature pad, or a proximity detector.

16. (original) The attachment according to claim 14, wherein said first input device is a magnetic stripe reader and said second input device is a smartcard reader, and said attachment further including a slot having a shallow channel portion through which a portion of a card bearing a magnetic stripe may be swiped and a deeper channel portion of sufficient depth to permit a card bearing a smartchip to be inserted into said slot.

17. (original) The attachment according to claim 14, said processor adapted to process input information received from said first input device in a first manner and adapted to process input information received from said second input device in a different second manner, such that a remote computer to which processed data from

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said attachment processor is sent can determine whether said processor received said input information from said first input device or said second input device.

18. (original) The attachment according to claim 1, said outer casing of said attachment having a recessed portion conforming to a surface of said outer casing of said wireless communication device.

19. (original) The attachment according to claim 1, further including an attachment memory encoded with instructions to be executed by said attachment processor.

20. (original) The attachment according to claim 19, wherein said attachment processor begins executing said instructions when input information is received at said input device.

21. (original) The attachment according to claim 1, further including a data port for receiving and transmitting data independent of said antenna.

22. (original) The attachment according to claim 21, wherein said data port receives and transmits at least one of infrared, IEEE 802.11 and Bluetooth signals.

23. (original) The attachment according to claim 1, wherein a first communication link established between said attachment and a remote computer over a communication network is separate from a second communication link established between said wireless communication device and said remote computer.

24. (original) The attachment according to claim 1, wherein a first application being executed by said device processor is suspended while a second application is executed by said device processor.

25. (original) A wireless communication apparatus for transmitting information

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to and receiving information from a remote computer over a communication network, said wireless communication apparatus comprising:

 a wireless communication device having an antenna, a device processor, an outer device casing, a communication port, and an output device; and

 an attachment having an attachment processor, a first input device, a connector, and an outer attachment casing, said attachment being removably coupled to said wireless communication device, wherein

 said connector mates with said communication port when said attachment is coupled to said wireless communication device, and

 said attachment processor is configured to communicate signals to said antenna without said signals being received by said device processor when said attachment is coupled to said wireless communication device.

26. (original) The apparatus according to claim 25, wherein said wireless communication device is one of a wireless telephone, a personal digital assistant, and a computer.

27. (original) The apparatus according to claim 25, wherein said first input device is one of a magnetic strip reader, a smartcard reader, an optical scanner, a fingerprint scanner, a signature pad, or a proximity detector.

28. (original) The apparatus according to claim 27, wherein said first input device is a magnetic stripe reader, said magnetic stripe reader having a slot and a reader head, said slot extending from a first opening in said outer casing of said attachment to a second opening in said outer casing of said attachment, and wherein said reader head forms a portion of a side wall of said slot.

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29. (original) The apparatus according to claim 28, wherein said slot is substantially parallel to a bottom surface of said outer casing of said wireless communication device.

30. (original) The apparatus according to claim 28, wherein said slot is substantially parallel to a side surface of said outer casing of said wireless communication device.

31. (original) The apparatus according to claim 27, further including a second input device, wherein said first input device is a magnetic stripe reader and said second input device is a smartcard reader, and further wherein said slot includes a shallow channel portion through which a portion of a card bearing a magnetic stripe may be swiped and a deeper channel portion of sufficient depth to permit a card bearing a smartchip to be inserted into said slot.

32. (original) The apparatus according to claim 25, said attachment processor adapted to process input information received from said input device to generate attachment-processed data to send to said antenna for transmission to a remote computer.

33. (original) The apparatus according to claim 32, wherein said attachment-processed data is generated by at least one of encrypting said input information, dividing said input information into data packets, and creating header information to append to said input information.

34. (original) The apparatus according to claim 25, wherein said device processor, said antenna, and at least one of said communication port and said attachment processor are connected by an logical bus.

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35. (original) The apparatus according to claim 34, wherein said device processor and at least one of said communication port and said attachment processor have unique bus addresses, and a message received by said antenna includes information identifying the bus address of the intended recipient of said message.

36. (original) The apparatus according to claim 25, wherein said connector is an RS-232 connector.

37. (original) The apparatus according to claim 25, further including a selectively engageable latching mechanism and a release mechanism that may be activated to detach said attachment from said wireless communication device.

38. (original) The apparatus according to claim 37, wherein said release mechanism is a release button that may be pressed to disengage said latching mechanism.

39. (original) The apparatus according to claim 25, said attachment further including a second input device.

40. (original) The apparatus according to claim 39, wherein said second input device is one of a magnetic strip reader, a smartcard reader, an optical scanner, a fingerprint scanner, a signature pad, or a proximity detector.

41. (original) The apparatus according to claim 39, said processor adapted to process input information received from said first input device in a first manner and adapted to process input information received from said second input device in a different second manner, such that a remote computer to which processed data from said attachment processor is sent can determine whether said processor received said input information from said first input device or said second input device.

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42. (original) The apparatus according to claim 25, said outer casing of said attachment having a recessed portion conforming to a surface of said outer casing of said wireless communication device.

43. (original) The apparatus according to claim 25, said attachment further including an attachment memory encoded with instructions to be executed by said attachment processor.

44. (original) The apparatus according to claim 25, wherein said attachment processor begins executing said instructions when input information is received at said input device.

45. (original) The apparatus according to claim 25, wherein said device processor is adapted to instruct a user to provide input information using said first input device.

46. (original) The apparatus according to claim 45, wherein said output device of said wireless communication device is a display, and further wherein said device processor instructs a user to provide said input information by displaying a message on said display.

47. (original) The apparatus according to claim 45, wherein said output device of said wireless communication device is a speaker, and further wherein said device processor instructs a user to provide said input information by playing a recorded audio message on said speaker.

48. (original) The apparatus according to claim 25, wherein said device processor establishes a communication link with a remote computer using said antenna.

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49. (original) The apparatus according to claim 48, wherein said attachment processor receives input information from said first input device, processes said input information to generate attachment-processed data, and sends said attachment-processed data to said remote computer using said antenna over said communication link.

50. (original) The apparatus according to claim 25, wherein said device processor executes one of a JAVA software application and a WAP software application.

51. (original) The apparatus according to claim 25, wherein said attachment processor executes one of a JAVA software application and a WAP software application.

52. (original) The apparatus according to claim 25, further including a data port for receiving and transmitting data independent of said antenna.

53. (original) The apparatus according to claim 52, wherein said data port receives and transmits at least one of infrared, IEEE 802.11 and Bluetooth signals.

54. (original) The apparatus according to claim 25, wherein a first communication link established between said attachment and a remote computer over a communication network is separate from a second communication link established between said wireless communication device and said remote computer.

55. (original) The apparatus according to claim 25, wherein a first application being executed by said device processor is suspended while a second application is executed by said device processor.

Claims 56 - 91 (cancelled).